GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3126
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
AUCTION OF NEPALI TEA
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government are aware that Nepal is selling cheap Darjeeling tea overseas posing a threat to Indian tea industry; (

(b) if so, whether many plantations have come up in Terai region of Nepal growing Darjeeling type tea which sell at 1/3 the price at which Indian Darjeeling tea is sold abroad; (

(c) if so, whether the Tea Board has sought the permission of the Government to conduct auction in Kolkata for Nepal made tea thereby ensuring a better price and quicker payment for Nepali tea growers; and (

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. Government / Tea Board do not have any such information. However, in order to prevent the entry of Nepal Green Tea Leaves into Darjeeling Plantation District, Tea Board has requested Government of West Bengal to take necessary measures to see that green leaves from Nepal are not used in the manufacture of Darjeeling tea. Further, to avoid any possible infringement in relation to teas produced in Darjeeling District in the State of West Bengal, Tea Board has introduced the Darjeeling Certification Trade Mark to maintain the distinct identity of Darjeeling tea. With the formation of National Tea and Coffee Development Board in Nepal in the year 1988, new tea plantations have started coming up in the Terai region of Nepal. The Government / Tea Board does not have any information on the sale price of Nepal Teas in different markets abroad.

(c) & (d) : In the meeting of the Indo-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee held in December 1999, the issue of allowing participation of Nepalese tea producers in Kolkata tea auction was discussed. Different Tea Producers` Associations of India have objected to the proposal of allowing participation of Nepalese tea in Indian auction including Kolkata auction.Hence far Tea Board / Govt. of India have not decided to allow the auction of Nepalese Tea in India.